

In the Specification:

Amend the Specification as set forth in the Specification Status.

In the Claims:

The status of the claims is set forth in the Claims Status.

Specification Status

1. Page 1, line 1 rewrite the title in its entirety as follows: HITCH MOUNTED REMOVABLE DOOR CARRIER

2. Page 1, line 3, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

The present invention relates to a storage device for removable vehicle doors, and, in particular, to a vehicle hitch mounted carrier for transporting the doors of ~~Jeep~~ JEEP-type vehicles.

3. Page 1, line 7, rewrite the paragraph as follows:

The classic ~~Jeep~~ JEEP vehicle continues to be a popular leisure and recreational transportation. Characterized by a retractable top and removable doors, the vehicle provides an open-air ambience in urban, rural and off-road settings. While the top may be conveniently stowed, the removable doors pose a greater storage problem. They may be inconveniently stored at the residence or garage and subject to inadvertent damage. Such off-site is also a problem if inclement weather is encountered or the vehicle is parked where security is an issue. Alternatively, the doors may be stored on board for use as needs arise,

but at a sacrifice to passenger capacity and cargo space. Moreover, in the vehicle, the doors are unsecured and subject to damage.

4. Page 1, rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

The present invention hitch mounted carrier for removable ~~Jeep~~ JEEP vehicle doors on which the doors may be stowed and latched. The carrier includes a base frame that is pivotally mounted on the hitch moveable between a vertical raised stowed position adjacent the spare wheel during periods of non-use and a horizontal lowered position. The frame includes a pair of folding side arm assemblies having mountings replicating the vehicle door frame. The arm assemblies include sets of hinge sleeves for receiving the door hinge pins and an opposed lock pins for engagement with the door latch mechanisms in replication of the mountings on the vehicle. Stored on the carriers, the doors are securely mounted without reducing passenger or cargo space. For replacement on the vehicle, the doors are conventionally unlatched, lifted from the side arm assemblies and reinstalled. The carrier may then be folded to the stowed position on the vehicle or removed for compact storage at the residence. The frame may also be utilized for carrying other cargo such as coolers, recreational equipment and the like.

5. Page 3, rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

Referring to the drawings, Figure 1 illustrates a ~~Jeep~~ JEEP -type vehicle 10 having a door carrier 12 mounted at a conventional rearwardly extending ~~Reese~~ REESE -type a hitch 14. As shown in Figure 11, a typical vehicle 10 is provided with a pair of removable side doors 16 mounted a vertically spaced door hinge set 18. As shown in Figure 6, the doors 16 of such vehicles are characterized by a pair of downwardly projecting circular hinge pins 20 carried on exterior door mounted brackets 21. The hinge pins 20 are journaled in hinge sleeves 22 mounted at the front vehicle door frame 24. The doors 16 also include a door latch mechanism 26 operated by exterior and interior handles 28. The latch mechanism 26 releasably engages a transverse cylindrical lock pin 30 projecting forwardly from the rear door frame 32 for locking and unlocking the door.

6. Page 4, rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 20 as follows:

Referring to Figures 2 through 5, the carrier 12 includes a base frame 40 and a pair of laterally spaced pivoting side frames 42. The base frame 40 is connected at a front pivot assembly 44 to a mounting tube 46 for pivotal movement about a transverse horizontal axis 47. The mounting tube 46 has a front end that is conventionally telescopically

received within the receiver 48 of the hitch 14 and conventionally secured thereto by a cross pin 49.

7. Page 5, rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 11 as follows:

The front pivot assembly 44 pivotally interconnects the center strut and the mounting tube for movement between a horizontal lowered position shown in Figure 2 and a vertical raised position shown in Figure 3. The rear end of the mounting tube 46 is beveled as shown in Figure 8 3. A pair of rectangular hinge plates 60 are welded to the sides of the mounting tube 46. The center strut 50 includes a beveled front end that engages the rear end of the mounting tube 46 in the horizontal position. A pivot pin assembly 62 connects the center strut 50 to the hinge plates 60 for rotation about axis 47. A locking pin 64 extends through aligned apertures in the plates 60 and the strut 50 to lock the frame in the horizontal position. The pin 64 is maintained a removable cotter pin 66 (Figure 4). In the raised position, the pin 64 extends through the plate apertures and engages the bottom surface of the strut 50 to maintain the raised vertical position.

8. Page 6, rewrite the paragraph beginning at line 22 as follows:

In use, the carrier 12 is preferably mounted in the fully folded condition shown in Figure 5. For assembly, the mounting tube 46 is telescoped into the hitch receiver 48 and latched by a conventional cross pin 49. For deployment in the door carrying mode, the pin 63 49 is removed from pivot assembly 44 and the frame 40 pivoted about the horizontal transverse axis 47 of the pivot assembly to the horizontal position shown in Figure 2 and 3. The pin is then reinserted through the aligned apertures to lock the frame. The side frames 42 are then pivoted about the horizontal longitudinal axes 85 of the hinge assemblies to the raised positions shown in Figures 4 and 5 and locked in place by threading the fasteners 90 into the nuts 92.